11 May 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT:  Trip Report - 4-8 April 1983


1.   This reports a TDY to Orlando, Florida for the purpose of attending the Data Catalogue User's Conference to acquaint the undersigned with other Data Catalogue Users and how their organizations are utilizing the product.  The conference was sponsored by the Data Catalogue User's Group.

2.   The first partial day of the conference was for registration, agenda review, and introductions to the other 40 odd attendees.  The attendees represented governmental, banking, oil, educational and business interest from the U.S., Canada, France and the Hague.

3.   The remaining three and a half days of the conference was dedicated to individual speakers and panel discussions concerning usage of, problems with and suggestions for utilization of Data Catalogue.

4.   The general consensus of the attendees was that the Data Catalogue package is a viable tool for use in the development and maintenance of computer systems.  Especially when viewed from a Data Administration perspective and when upper management levels are fully committed to supporting data as a resource and data collection and maintenance as a separate and visible cost of productivity.  Additionally, the future success of any database package is dependent upon a centralized control point for development and maintenance, along with explicit standards and procedures for its use.

5.   If the Agency is to reap full benefit from the use of this, or any other database dictionary, then we must give due consideration to the importance of the tool, provide systematic control of its use, and define standards and naming conventions for dynamic utilization of the product.

6. TSI appears to be fully committed to supporting the product, resolving user problems, and incorporating user suggested enhancements when such enhancements have a broadbase appeal. They also indicate version 3.0 along with new documentation will be available for IBM based systems around November of this year. The new release will include an enhanced COPY facility along with the conversion programs required to match DC2 with the Custom Dictionary Facility (CDF).
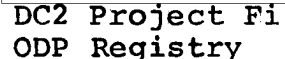
7. I personally believe the conference was a worthwhile experience and will be of benefit to the Agency and would suggest that an Agency representative be present at all future conferences.

STAT

System Development Division
Office of Data Processing

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